THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Two persons were arrested on December 5, 2004 by Bareilly Police with a 1 Kg metal package. The metal package contained Uranium. However, the Uranium on examination by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was found to be depleted Uranium with very low concentration of fissile Uranium, which does not pose any security threat or any significant radiation/health hazard. The piece is now in the custody of the AERB. The State Government has filed a criminal case against the culprits.

Headquarter of banned militant outfit in Jammu and Kashmir

864. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the headquarters of banned militant outfit named as Jaish-e-Mohammed is located in concrete bunkers, deep in the mountains of Tral-dechigam-Dara hills in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the security forces verified the information given by the captured militant Sajjad Ahmed Butt, that these bunkers were equipped with heavy weaponry including anti-aircraft guns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Available reports do not indicate presence of concrete bunkers with heavy weaponry including anti aircraft guns in Tral-Dachigam-Dara Hills in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the presence of terrorists in remote and inaccessible areas of this hilly track cannot be ruled out.

(c) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have been laying ambushes and patrolling deep in this hilly terrain regularly. Besides, an additional battalion of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) has been deployed in the area to dominate the ridges and neutralize any terrorist present there.

Criteria to confer national awards

865. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the gudelines/ criteria for selection of the people for conferment of 'Padma Shri' and other such national awards;